

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NEA-10 IO-14
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P R 261623Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO ERDA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7684
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24866

FOR VANDERRYN/AIA AND BEATTIE/ASGA, USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH NEW ENERGY ACTIVITIES

1. TO FOLLOW UP ERDA REQUEST FOR FRENCH PROGRAM INFORMATION MADE TO DELEGGUE GENERAL MENTRE, SCIREP MET DELEGGUE FOR NEW ENERGIES COLLI. MEETING WAS LENGTHY AND FRIENDLY. COLLI DESCRIBED HIS ROLE WHICH IS PRIMARILY TO DEVELOP UTILIZATION IN FRANCE OF NEW ENERGIES, I.E. SOLAR AND GEO-THERMAL. HE CONTROLS DIRECTLY ONLY A PART OF THE BUDGET IN THESE AREAS BUT

IS CONSULTED ON ALL BUDGETARY ISSUES AND HIS ROLL IS TO COORDINATE SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, REGULATORY AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES TO BRING ABOUT QUICK RESULTS. HE CHAIRS SOLAR AND GEO-THERMAL PROGRAM COMMITTEES WHICH INCLUDE SCIENTISTS, ECOLOGISTS AND INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPANTS. HIS STRENGTH DERIVES IN PART FROM HIS HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS. HE STATED HE WAS PERSONALLY
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APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD WITH WHOM HE COMMUNICATES DIRECTLY AND HE FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. HIS SOLAR PROGRAM GIVES FIRST PRIORITY TO HELIO-ELECTRIC GENERATION. THIS INCLUDES:

(A) THE THEM PROJECT WHICH NOW IS CONSIDERED
A 2 MW(E) PLANT WHICH WILL BE BUILT AS A TEST BED.
THIS EFFORT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED UNDER EDF/CNRS LEADERSHIP.
ALL FINANCIAL ISSUES HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED BUT
CONSTRUCTION IS DEFINITELY EXPECTED TO PROCEED, WITH
COMPLETION IN ABOUT THREE YEARS;

(B) CONSTRUCTION OF A 800 KW(E) CENTRAL COLLEC-
TOR PROTOTYPE PLANT TO BE BUILT BY AN INDUSTRIAL GROUP
PROBABLY INCLUDING ST. GOBAIN PONT-A-MOUSSON, HEURTY
BABCOCK-FIVES;

(C) A 300 KW(E) DISTRIBUTED COLLECTOR PROTOTYPE
PLANT TO BE BUILT BY TWO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, SOCIETE
BERTIN AND THE RENAULT AUTO COMPANY;

(D) THIS SOFRETES PUMPING STATIONS EFFORT FOR
DESERT REGIONS. SINCE 1962 SOME 40-UNITS HAVE BEEN
CONSTRUCTED IN THE ONE KW RANGE, AND MORE RECENTLY
AN 80 KW VERSION HAS BECOME OPERATIVE.

THE PROTOTYPE UNDER (B) AND (C) ABOVE, READY FOR TURN-
KEY OPERATION AND DEMONSTRATION OF POTENTIAL EXPORT
CAPABILITY, WOULD BE READY IN 1979. THEIR DESIGN
WOULD BE BASED ON LESS ADVANCED R & D THAN THE THEM
EFFORT. THOSE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED AND DESIGN
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EFFORTS ARE IN PROGRESS ALTHOUGH FUNDING FOR THE
800 KW(E) HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY ASSURED.

3. THE LONGER RANGE PHOTO-VOLTAIC PROGRAM IS FOCUSING
ON A PROTOTYPE OF THE ORDER OF L0 KW, FOR WHICH FUND-
ING HAS NOT YET BEEN PROVIDED. A HUNDRED KW WINDPOWER
PLANT IS IN CONSTRUCTION ON AN ISLAND OFF BRITTANY.

4. THE SOLAR HEATING PROGRAM IS ALSO ACTIVELY PUR-
SUED WITH THE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE ONE MILLION
SQUARE METERS OF RECEIVER SURFACE IN FRANCE BY 1985.
MR. COLLI IS PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL WITH RESPECT TO
WATER HEATING WHICH HE BELIEVES HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED
TO BE ECONOMIC. A PROGRAM OF CONSTRUCTION INCENTIVES
HAS BEEN LAUNCHED WHICH HELPS COVER COST RISKS FOR
USERS WILLING TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR OR GEO-THERMAL FACIL-
ITIES.

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO ERDA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7685
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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5. FIFTEEN THOUSAND LODGING UNITS TO BE HEATED BY
GEO-THERMAL ENERGY ARE EITHER COMPLETED OR WILL BE
OPERATED WITHIN ABOUT ONE YEAR; IN ADDITION 15,000
TO 20,000 LODGING UNITS ARE IN ADVANCED STAGE OF
PLANNING AND 30,000 - 50,000 IN THE STUDY PHASE.

6. THE FRENCH HAVE ESTABLISHED MANY INTERNATIONAL
CONTACTS AND ARE PURSUING THESE IN PARTICULAR WITH
IRAN, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND ALGIERS.

7. BUDGET FIGURES ARE FOR 1977: 135.5 MILLION FRANCS
FOR GEO-THERMAL AND 148 MILLION FRANCS FOR SOLAR
ENERGY. THE BUDGET FIGURES FORESEEN FOR 1978 ARE 158
AND 244 MILLION FRANCS, RESPECTIVELY (\$1.00 EQUALS
ABOUT 4.9 FRANCS). THIS INCLUDES R & D AND OTHER
PUBLIC FUNDING AND GRANTS. IN ADDITION, THERE IS
SOME INDUSTRIAL AND ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE FUNDING
WHICH IS NOT WELL DEFINED BUT WAS ESTIMATED BY MR.
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COLLI TO BE AT LEAST 20 MILLION FRANCS.

8. THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS IN FRENCH WHICH WILL BE
POUCHED SOONEST WERE TRANSMITTED BY MR. COLLI:

(A) MINISTERIAL DECREE ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE
OF THE DELEGUE FOR NEW ENERGIES.

(B) WRITE-UP ON THE GEO-THERMAL COMMITTEE AND
ITS MODUS-OPERANDI.

(C) INTRODUCTION OF GEO-THERMAL ENERGY TO
POTENTIAL USERS.

(D) LIST OF GEO-THERMAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING
PROJECT, SIZE AND LOCATION.

(E) PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN GRANTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY
PROJECTS.

(F) ADVICE TO INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN USING
SOLAR ENERGY WITH A LIST OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

AND MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS.

(G) GEO-THERMAL AND SOLAR BUDGET.

(H) REPORT: SOLAR ENERGY IN FRANCE.

(I) REPORT: STUDY OF GEO-THERMAL ENERGY FOR
HEATING OF LODGINGS.
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